

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Komatsu (2002/0193990).

As to claim 1, Komatsu teaches a method for use by a speech dialog system that includes speech input interface and a speech application coupled to the speech input interface

Where the speech input interface receives speech signal from a user and converts the speech signal into recognition result in the form of character string (binary data) that can be used by the speech application (abstract;Par.0044; Fig.1).

As to claim 2, Komatsu teaches where the character string is instruction comprising interaction sequences that is executable by an interactive controller (program module) including translating the input speech into intermediate language (semantics) and where the interactive sequences are task (object), event and status dependent (Par.0018, 0007, 0012; Figs.1-4).

As to claims 21-22, the corresponding speech input interface and the dialogue system for performing the claimed method are taught by Komatsu (Fig.1-4).

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims are not in proper format of method claim and apparatus claim, respectively.

the cited limitations are not clearly referred as steps or means comprised within the claimed method or apparatus of a speech dialogue system.

In claim 21 the functions of the speech input interface are not clear also its not clearly stated whether some of the claimed limitation refer to the speech interface, voice control device, method by the user or the application of the dialogue system.

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims are allowed because the prior art of record do not teach all the limitations in the claim including where valid speech inputs are specified as recited in the claim.

Claims 23-25 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: claim 23 is allowable because Komatsu doesn't teach the claimed syntax analysis and the vocabulary as recited in the claim.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-10 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: claim 3 is allowable for same reason as claim 23.

Claims 4-10 and 19-20 directly and indirectly depend on claim 3 therefore are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D. Abebe whose telephone number is 571-272-7615. The examiner can normally be reached on monday-friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Art Unit: 2626

/Daniel D Abebe/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626